



Written Statement of
Trung Lam, Executive Director

before the
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Wednesday, February 18, 2026
9:30 am
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

In consideration of
HB 2410
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee.

As Hawai'i's leading agency for technology-based economic development, the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) is dedicated to advancing innovation and diversifying the state's economy. HB2410 is of critical importance to HTDC, as it provides essential funding to support programs that foster the growth of technology sectors, including those aligned with our mission to position Hawai'i as the leading innovation center in the Pacific.

The appropriation proposed in HB2410 will enable HTDC to continue supporting initiatives such as accelerator and incubator programs, research and development activities, and commercialization efforts in key sectors like space, ocean, health, and advanced manufacturing. These programs have demonstrated value in nurturing local startups, attracting investment, and expanding workforce opportunities in high-growth fields. By investing in technology infrastructure and innovation, the bill directly supports economic diversification and resilience, which are central to HTDC's goals.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

RE: HB2410 Relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation

Aloha e Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 2410 (HB2410), which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation to support certain programs.

HB2410 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the Small Business Policy Pillar. Strengthening the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports key priorities within this pillar, including economic diversification, innovation, and high-wage job creation. HTDC serves as a catalytic force in advancing emerging industries such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, ocean science, energy, aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing — sectors that are critical to reducing Hawaii's reliance on tourism and building long-term economic resilience.

HB2410 appropriates funding to support HTDC's core programs, including Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) matching grants, the Manufacturing Assistance Program, and accelerator and small business training initiatives. These programs help local companies commercialize new technologies, compete globally, attract federal funding, and scale solutions to large-scale community challenges. Strategic investment in these innovation-driven programs strengthens Hawaii's entrepreneurial ecosystem, supports small business growth, and builds a more competitive, diversified economy for the future.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 2410. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 18, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

TESTIMONY ON HB 2410
RELATING TO THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2410, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation for programs that advance innovation, manufacturing, and economic diversification.

For agriculture, economic diversification includes strengthening value-added processing, expanding manufacturing capacity, and supporting the commercialization of locally produced products. As production costs continue to rise, increasing farm revenues is critical to the long-term viability of Hawai'i's farms and ranches. Programs administered by HTDC, including manufacturing assistance and federal matching initiatives, help agricultural producers and value-added food businesses address barriers related to capital, scale, and competitiveness.

High costs for labor, land, utilities, transportation, and regulatory compliance continue to narrow margins for local producers. Strategic investments in innovation and manufacturing enable farmers to utilize excess or off-grade production, access new markets, and compete more effectively with imported goods. These investments retain economic value within the State while creating employment opportunities across the food supply chain.

HB 2410 strengthens economic resilience and growth across sectors, including Hawai'i's agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |
Honolulu, HI 96813
P: 808-533-1292 | e:
info@hawaiiifood.com

Executive Officers

Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Vice Chair*
Jill Tamura, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Advisor*
Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Economic Development and Technology

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 18, 2026

TIME: 9:30am

RE: HB2410 Relating to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to support economic diversification by appropriating funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to support certain programs.

Over the years many HFIA members, Made in Hawaii Festival Vendors, and other local businesses have utilized HTDC programs that this measure supports. These programs help make it possible for these local businesses to grow and thrive in Hawaii's challenging business and economic environment. When local businesses have the support they need our economy becomes diversified, more resilient, and stronger for us all.

We encourage the Committee to pass this measure so that these and other businesses can continue to receive vital support from these HTDC programs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO 2410, RELATING TO
THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Position: **Support**

To Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair; Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Please accept this testimony in **strong support** of this bill, and its intentions to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Technology and Development Corporation to be used in a revolving fund to support the Small Business Innovation Research (HSBIR) matching funding program.

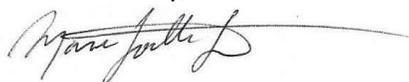
Simonpietri Enterprises LLC is an O'ahu-based small business developing innovative ways to recycle waste generated in Hawai'i into renewable fuels and other beneficial recycled-material products for use in Hawai'i. We strongly support the HTDC's matching funding programs and, as a previous awardee, SEL recognizes the matching funds program as a powerful way to multiply the State's funding to accelerate innovation and facilitate local manufacturing investment. The requirement to match funding to federal funds awards in the HSBIR program is a prudent way to leverage federal agency technical expertise and reward innovation while maintaining a level playing field.

In the 5+ years since launching our Aloha Carbon technology and project development effort with our first-ever SBIR award from the USDA, we have grown our team from one to ten skilled science, engineering and other industry adjacent positions, matured our innovations from concept to pilot scale, and secured a site in Campbell Industrial Park to be the future home for Aloha Carbon. We used the HSBIR funds in areas that the federal funds cannot cover: to support workforce development efforts through paid internships, five of whom are University of Hawaii undergraduate interns, three of whom are now full-time employees on our team. We also applied for and received our first-ever patent and now are now working on four international patents.

We are currently designing a small manufacturing facility, the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (Aloha SMRFF) in Campbell Industrial Park in Kapolei. Aloha SMRFF will serve as a pilot to Aloha Carbon and will divert over 200 tons per day of construction and demolition waste from the state's only C&D landfill, and remanufacture that waste to displace over 10,000 tons per year of imported fossil fuels, fertilizers, and building materials. Thanks in part to the assistance from HTDC and HSBIR, we were able to compete at the national level and win a \$4 million manufacturing grant from the USDA, to build the Aloha Fertilizer manufacturing line of our Aloha SMRFF project. State matching funds like the ones provided by HTDC allow us to actually bring in these federal funds and build this facility to employ 2 dozen skilled workers. This facility is the first step to demonstrating our Aloha Carbon manufacturing process to manufacture pipeline-quality renewable fuel from solid waste generated in Honolulu.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure, and urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,



Marie-Joelle Simonpietri

President

About Simonpietri Enterprises LLC

Simonpietri Enterprises is a Kailua, Hawaii-based woman- and veteran-owned small business with ten employees, focused on technical innovation and first-of-kind project development of emerging clean and renewable technologies. Since founding in 2006, we have helped dozens of small and large industrial companies in Hawaii, the continental U.S., Australia, and Canada improve the environmental and economic sustainability of their operations through technical and business advice in renewable energy conversion, waste reduction and re-use, and greenhouse gas lifecycle impact reduction. Simonpietri Enterprises' founder and employees have participated in the strategy, planning, design, financing, development, construction, and energy efficiency/greenhouse gas reduction/sustainability renovation for over \$400 million in new renewable and first-of-kind sustainable fuel projects over the past 15 years. Since launching the Aloha Carbon waste-to-fuel technical development process in August 2020, Simonpietri Enterprises is now developing renewable fuel production facilities in its own right, starting with the Aloha Sustainable Materials Recycling and Fertilizer Facility (SMRFF) in Kapolei, Hawaii to divert wastes generated in Honolulu from landfilling and transform it to renewable fuel, organic fertilizer, and recycled-material building products.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 423
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 AT 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
The Honorable Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

**SUPPORT FOR HB2410 RELATING TO
THE HAWAII TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB2410, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) to support targeted programs. As an organization committed to advancing economic growth and diversification, we recognize the critical need for investments that build resilience and opportunity across Hawai'i's economy, especially as Maui businesses continue to recover from recent crises and ongoing structural challenges.

HB2410 aligns with our priorities by empowering HTDC to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and the development of new industries beyond tourism. Economic diversification is essential for long-term stability, reducing vulnerability to sector-specific downturns, and creating quality jobs for residents. Support for technology, creative industries, manufacturing, and value-added products can help ensure that Hawai'i's recovery is broad-based and sustainable, benefitting both current and future generations.

We also note that investing in HTDC's programs encourages private sector growth without imposing new tax burdens on businesses. This approach makes Hawai'i a more attractive environment for both existing companies and new ventures, supporting higher wages, improved infrastructure, and expanded opportunities for local talent.

We respectfully recommend that the Legislature ensure accountability and transparency in the allocation of these funds, with an emphasis on measurable outcomes and equitable support for neighbor island communities. Continued engagement with local businesses and stakeholders will help maximize the impact of this appropriation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support of HB2410.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-2410

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:32:58 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robbie Melton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and committee members. As a small business advisor for many years, I firmly support the funding programs of the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation. Back in 2014 before the funding programs, HTDC companies provided about \$300,000 in annual economic impact to the state. After the legislature appropriated funding for the Manufacturing assistance Program to help Hawaii's manufacturing companies and supporting various matching funds to support companies receiving federal research grants the number of companies supported grew and through DBEDT economic analysis these companies made a significant contribution to the state economy of nearly \$1 billion. These funds support many neighbor island businesses where resources are scarce. I highly recommend increasing the funding appropriation to expand the assistance provided to the innovation companies in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Regards,

Robbie Melton